

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 08268 080519Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /126 W

----- 072487

R 080408Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1488

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: NDP INTERNAL STRIFE

1. FACTIONAL FIGHTING WITHIN THE NDP AGAIN SURFACED DURING DECEMBER 6 MEETING OF THE PARTY POLITICAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL. THE NON-MAINSTREAM FACTION, LED BY KIM YONG-SAM/KO HUNG-MUN, STRONGLY CRITICIZED PARTY LEADER YU CHIN-SAN FOR THE "POOR" OUTCOME OF THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS, AS REPORTED BY THE PRESS, INCLUDE THEMM "MILDNESS" OF THE JOINT RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNMENT AND YU'S DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. RECENT PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO DISPUTE, SPECULATING THAT SPLIT IN PARTY COULD COME SOON, AND MENTIONING POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL PARTY CONVENTION INSPIRING. IN ADDITION TO KIM AND KO ANTU-YU GROUP REPORTEDLY INVYUDES PARTY VICE PRESIDENTS CHONG HAE-YONG AND KIM WON-MAN, WHILE VICE SPEAKER YI CHOL-SUNG, PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL SIN TO-HWAN AND FLOOR LEADER YI MIN-U ARE STILL IN YU'S CAMPT.

3. IN TALKS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF BOTH FACTIONS INDICAT THAT YU'S LEADERSHIP IS IN FACT UNDER HEAVY ATTACK BY

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ASFNMPLY OPPOSITIONISTS. NDP ASSEMBLYMEN FEEL THAT YU'S CONTROL

OF THE PARTY HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY HIS COOPERATIVE STANCE TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT. KIM YONG-SAM AND OTHERS ARE ALSO FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES, ATTEMPTING TO CUT OUT ON MORE CLEARLY OPPOSITIONIST IMAGE. ASSESSMENT OF BOTH YU SUPPORTERS AND NON-MAINSTREAT IS THAT A DECISIVE PARTY SPLIT IS NOT IMMINENT. HOWEVER, WE DO BELIEVE KIM YONG-SAM AND HIS GROUP HAVE BEGUN TO TEST THE ATMOSPHERE ON THIS.

UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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